

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00631 240646Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01

SSM-03 /101 W

-----240653 022965 /14

R 231247Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3718

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0631

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, EG, SU

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS 1059; CAIRO 3140

1. VIEW MULTIPLICITY CONTACTS, INCLUDING RECENT VISITS
HERE BY CLUTCH OF EGYPTIAN MINISTERS, CAIRO NO DOUBT
HAS RECEIVED VARIETY OF REPORTS FROM SUDANESE ON RECENT
HORN DEVELOPMENTS. MOST AUTHORITATIVE PICTURE WAS BO
DOUBT PRESENTED WHEN PRIMIN TAHIR SAW SADAT JAN 13-14
TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR IMPENDING KHARTOUM TRIPARTITE
"SUMMIT" (KHARTOUM 0118). TIMING SUGGESTS THIS
COULD HAVE BEEN SOURCE FAHMY'S STATEMENT TO AMB
EILTS REPORTED CAIRO 873 OF JAN 17.

2. IN PAST SIX MONTHS, GOS CONCERN HAS EVOLVED IN
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00631 240646Z

FOLLOWING ROUGH PROGRESSION: LIBYA - LIBYAN/SOVIET
CONNECTION - ETHIOPIAN ANSAR CAMPS - EPMG - SOVIET
INROADS ETHIOPIA. INITIAL TARGET IN WAKE LAST JULY'S
TRAUMA WAS QADHAFI. THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO PUBLIC
CRITICISM OF EPMG, EVEN THOUGH GOS PRIVATELY WAS
WORRIED RE EVIDENT ETHIOPIAN ACQUIESCENCE
IN PERMITTING REBEL RECRUITING FROM ANSAR CAMPS.

SUDANESE CONCERN RE EPMG INTENTIONS DID NOT BULK LARGE UNTIL MID-OCTOBER WHEN PRIMIN TOLD ME OF INITIAL VISIT ADDIS BY SENIOR LIBYAN FONMIN OFFICIAL. SINCE LARG WAS SEEN BY SUDANESE AS COUNTRY BEHIND JULY ATTEMPTED COUP, THIS ASSOCIATION BY ETHIOPIA WITH LIBYA PUT THE CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS. MOUNTING SUSPICION OF EPMG AUTHORITIES WAS HARDLY REVERSED BY UNSUCCESSFUL EARLY NOVEMBER ADDIS VISIT NIMEIRI SENIOR CABINET AIDE AL-KHIDR.

3. BROUHAHA STIRRED UP BY NIMEIRI OVER ANSAR CAMP ISSUE DEC 26-JAN 1 WAS FOLLOWED BY SUSPENSION PUBLIC POLEMICS BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND ADDIS, THOUGH SUDANESE REMAINED WORRIED RE WAHT THEY SAW AS MOSCOW-BACKED LIBYAN MACHINATIONS. IN FACT, THE THEN FONMIN TOLD ME HE THOUGHT CAMPS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED. HOWEVER, ADDIS MURDERS FEB 3 AND EMERGENCE MENGISTU IN FULL CHARGE CONCENTRATED NIMEIRI REGIME ANEW ON WHAT HAS BEEN POTENTIAL SUDANESE BUGABOO EVER SINCE FALL OF HAILE SELASSIE, NAMELY THAT ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WOULD BECOME SUBJECT SIGNIFICANT EXTERNAL COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. NEW FONMIN TELLS ME HE FEARS THIS HAS NOW HAPPENED. (KHARTOUM 606).

4. AS GOS/EPMG RELATIONS HAVE DETERIORATED, LOCAL MEDIA HAVE PREDICTABLY RUNG CHANGES ON THEME OF ISRAELI/ETHIOPIAN COOPERATION. LATEST IS ALLEGED ISRAELI/ETHIOPIAN "PLOTING" TO SET UP "IMMATONG REPUBLIC" IN SOUTH (SEPTTEL).
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PAGE 03 KHARTO 00631 240646Z

5. DESPITE SUCH DIVERSIONARY TACTICS, WE SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF MILITARY CLASHES BETWEEN SUDANESE AND ETHIOPIAN FORCES. WHAT GOS STILL FEARS ARE RENEWED ATTEMPTS AT SUBVERSION ON PART EXILED ANSAR LEADERSHIP OR OTHER DISAFFECTED ELEMENTS, SUCH AS FEB 2 JUBA ESCAPADE ATTRIBUTED ZAIRE-BASED NUBA LEADER GABBOUSH. EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE IN MONITORING THESE DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING AIR RECONNAISSANCE, HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY NIMEIRI REGIME. LIKELIHOOD THAT EGHPTIAN TROOP SUPPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED IS REMOTE AND WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE HERE. ONE OF NIMEIRI'S STRENGTHS HAS BEEN HIS ABILITY TO POSE AS SUDANESE DEFENDING COUNTRY AGAINST HANDFUL DISGRUNTLED EXILES BACKED BY QUARRELSOME QADHAFI. SHOULD NIMEIRI'S SURIVAL EVER COME TO DEPEND ON EGYPTIAN BAYONNETS, HIS DAYS AS THIS COUNTRY'S LEADER WOULD DEFINITELY BE NUMBERED. BREWER

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